

Legislative Bulletin.....June 22, 2010

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H.Con.Res. 288 - Supporting National Men's Health Week
(Cummings, D-MD)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, June 22, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 288 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- “Supports the annual National Men's Health Week; and
- “Requests that the President of the United States issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States and interested groups to observe National Men's Health Week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “Despite the advances in medical technology and research, men continue to live an average of more than 5 years less than women and African-American men have the lowest life expectancy;
- “African-American men in the United States have the highest incidence of prostate cancer in the world;
- “More than half of the elderly widows now living in poverty were not poor before the death of their husbands, and by age 100 women outnumber men 4 to 1; and
- “June 14 through June 20, 2010, is National Men's Health Week, which has the purpose of heightening the awareness of preventable health problems and encouraging early detection and treatment of disease among men and boys.”

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 288 was introduced on June 14, 2010, and referred to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, which took no public action.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would not authorize any additional expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there's no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report stating constitutional authority is unavailable.

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H.Res. 546 - Recognizing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day, and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that history should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and more effectively facing the challenges of the future (*Davis, D-IL*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, June 22, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 546 resolves that:

- “The House of Representatives recognizes the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day to the Nation;
- “The House of Representatives supports the continued celebration of Juneteenth Independence Day to provide an opportunity for the people of the United States to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the Nation; and
- “It is the sense of the House of Representatives that—
 - “History should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and more effectively facing the challenges of the future; and
 - “The celebration of the end of slavery is an important and enriching part of the history and heritage of the United States.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “News of the end of slavery did not reach frontier areas of the United States, and in particular the Southwestern States, for more than 2 years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863, and months after the conclusion of the Civil War;
- “On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were free;
- “African-Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest celebrated June 19, commonly known as Juneteenth Independence Day, as the anniversary of their emancipation; and
- “The faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves remains an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 546 was introduced on June 15, 2010, and referred to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, which took no public action.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would not authorize any additional expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there's no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report stating constitutional authority is unavailable.

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H.Res. 1369 - Recognizing the significance of National Caribbean-American Heritage Month (*Lee, D-CA*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, June 22, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 1369 would resolve that Congress:

- “Supports the goals and ideals of Caribbean-American Heritage Month;
- “Encourages the people of the United States to observe Caribbean-American Heritage Month with appropriate ceremonies, celebrations, and activities; and
- “Affirms that—
 - “The contributions of Caribbean-Americans are a significant part of the history, progress, and heritage of the United States; and
 - “The ethnic and racial diversity of the United States enriches and strengthens the Nation.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “During the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, a significant number of slaves from the Caribbean region were brought to the United States;
- “Alexander Hamilton, a founding father of the United States and the first Secretary of the Treasury, was born in the Caribbean;
- “Caribbean-Americans have played an active role in the civil rights movement and other social and political movements in the United States; and
- “Since the passage of H. Con. Res. 71 in the 109th Congress by both the Senate and the House of Representatives, a proclamation has been issued annually by the President declaring June National Caribbean-American Heritage Month.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 1369 was introduced on May 18, 2010, and was referred to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, which took no public action.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize additional expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there’s no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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H.Res. 1407 - Supporting the goals and ideals of High-Performance Building Week (Biggert, R-IL)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, June 22, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 1407 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- “Supports the goals and ideals of High-Performance Building Week;
- “Recognizes and reaffirms our Nation's commitment to high-performance buildings by promoting awareness about their benefits and by promoting new education programs, supporting research, and expanding access to information;
- “Recognizes the unique role that the Department of Energy plays through the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's Building Technologies Program, which works closely with the building industry and manufacturers to conduct research and development on technologies and practices for building energy efficiency;
- “Recognizes the important role that the National Institute of Standards and Technology plays in developing the measurement science needed to develop, test, integrate, and demonstrate the new building technologies; and
- “Encourages further research and development of high-performance building standards, research, and development.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “The High-Performance Building Congressional Caucus Coalition has declared the week of June 13 through June 19, 2010, as ‘High-Performance Building Week’;
- “Buildings account for 39 percent of United States carbon dioxide emissions a year, approximately equaling the combined carbon emissions of Japan, France, and the United Kingdom;
- “Poor indoor environmental quality is detrimental to the health of all Americans, especially our children and the elderly;
- “High-performance buildings, which address human, environmental, economic, and total societal impact, result from the application of the highest level of design, construction, operation, and maintenance principles--a paradigm change for the built environment; and
- “The United States should continue to improve the features of new buildings and adapt and maintain existing buildings to changing balances in our needs and responsibilities for health, safety, energy and water efficiency, and usability by all segments of society.”

Conservative Concern: The resolution expresses support for the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. \$2.2 billion was appropriated for this purpose in FY 2010, which came on top of \$17 billion previously appropriated in the “stimulus.” The resolution specifically mentions the building

technologies program under this office, which received \$200 million in FY 2010. As the resolution notes, this program “works closely with the building industry and manufacturers to conduct research and development on technologies and practices for building energy efficiency.” Some conservatives may believe that this program does not merit federal funding, and that these activities are more properly left to the private-sector.

Committee Action: H.Res. 1407 was introduced on May 27, 2010, and was referred to the House Committee on Science and Technology, which took no public action.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize additional expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there’s no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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H.Res. 1388 - Supporting the goals and ideals of National Hurricane Preparedness Week (Mario Diaz-Balart, R-FL)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, June 22, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 1388 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- “Supports the goals and ideals of National Hurricane Preparedness Week;
- “Encourages the staff of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, especially the National Weather Service and the National Hurricane Center, and other appropriate Federal agencies, to continue their outstanding work of educating people in the United States about hurricane preparedness; and
- “Urges the people of the United States to recognize such a week as an opportunity to learn more about the work of the National Hurricane Center in forecasting hurricanes and educating citizens about the potential risks of the storms.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “The Atlantic and central Pacific hurricane season begins June 1, 2010, and ends November 30, 2010, and the eastern Pacific hurricane season runs from May 15, 2010, through November 30, 2010;
- “Millions of Americans face great risks from tropical storms and hurricanes, as 50 percent of Americans live along the coast and millions of tourists visit the oceans each year;
- “Experts at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Hurricane Center and the National Weather Service agree that it is critical for all people to know if they live in an area prone to hurricanes, to figure out their home's vulnerability in the event of a storm surge, flooding, and heavy winds, and to develop a written family disaster plan based on this knowledge; and
- “The National Weather Service recommends that when a hurricane threatens the United States, people in potential flood zones evacuate if told to do so, keep abreast of road conditions through the news media, move to a safe area before access is cut off by flood water, develop a flood emergency action plan, and do not attempt to cross flowing water in an automobile, because as little as 6 inches of water may cause one to lose control of the vehicle.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 1388 was introduced on May 24, 2010, and was referred to the House Science and Technology Committee, which took no public action.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize additional expenditures.

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Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there's no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

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